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INDEX

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Conclave of Communist Parties
2. High-Level Visits
3. Berlin/Germany
4. Laos
5. Mauritania
6. The Melekh Case

INTERNAL

7. Leadership
8. Party Plenums Involving Leadership Changes in Stalingrad, Voronezh, and Vologda Oblasts
9. Soviet-New Zealand Society Founded
10. Leningrad City Raion Elections
11. Communist Party Membership Dues for Members and Candidate Members

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

1. Conclave of Communist Parties: An "Information Bulletin" published December 2 is the first reference in the Soviet press to the meeting of communist parties which has been held in the Kremlin for the better part of November.

The Bulletin simply lists 81 "communist and workers' parties" which could be openly identified as having representatives at the conclave, and states that they exchanged experiences and views on problems confronting communist parties in the contemporary period, and that they unanimously adopted a Declaration of Communist Parties and an Appeal to the Peoples of the Whole World. The Bulletin concluded with the sentence, "Discussions of all questions took place in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship based on the unshakable principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism."

The publication of this Bulletin, a photograph of the participants of the meeting, the announcement of the departure of some major party leaders, and the meeting on Nov. 30 between Soviet and Chicom leaders indicates that the conference has been concluded. Despite the last sentence of the Bulletin, however, there is no indication that the meeting succeeded in reconciling divergent Soviet and Chicom views.

In fact, several developments during the week, the premature departure of leading members of the Albanian delegation, the publication of articles having a marked anti-Chinese flavor on the 140th anniversary of Engels' birth, and some improvement in Soviet official treatment of Yugoslavia, pointed to a continuation of the ideological struggle.

2. High-Level Visits: While the continuing bloc meeting was doubtless the most significant feature of the current Moscow scene, a number of high-level visits bore witness to Soviet interest in developing relations with non-Communist countries. President Kekkonen of Finland left for home November 24, and the final communique on his visit, including provision for retention of most-favored-nation treatment for the USSR in the event of Finnish association with the European Free Trade Area, appeared in the press the next day. On November 26 Khrushchev received a Moroccan military delegation which had arrived presumably to settle the details of the recently announced agreement for supplying Soviet military aircraft to Rabat. The same day Brezhnev met with a Chilean parliamentary delegation which was believed to have come to explore the question of possible resumption of diplomatic relations with the USSR and which, it was reported, had been favorably impressed by their visit. The Sixth Pugwash Conference opened in Moscow November 27, and Cyrus Eaton arrived November 30. Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia arrived on a state visit November 28. Finally, UAR Vice President Amer arrived at the head of a large delegation heavily weighted with military figures on November 30.

3. Berlin/Germany: (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) In a blandly worded declaration published in the Soviet press Dec. 3, following a meeting between Khrushchev and Ulbricht, the Soviets pledged to supply the necessary "raw materials and goods" to the GDR in the event the FRG failed to agree to a new Inter-Zonal Trade Agreement. The declaration omitted any attacks against the Bonn Government and failed to stigmatize the FRG abrogation of the IZT. Ulbricht was accompanied at the meeting by Herman Matern, Heinrich Rau, Leuschner, Axen, and Peter Florin, according to the Soviet press.

The recent Neues Deutschland threat to embrace supplies for the allied garrisons in any retaliatory action against West Berlin-West German trade traffic has not been mentioned in the Soviet press to date. The absence of any reference to this latest GDR threat is typical of the low-key treatment given here to all developments which have followed from Soviet Zone restrictions on travel to West Berlin beginning in September.

4. Laos: During the week Soviet press coverage of events in Laos dropped-off, despite an earlier build-up suggesting possible direct intervention by US military forces to oust the Souvanna Phouma Government.

The press mentioned for the first time the possibility of Soviet aid to the Souvanna government, and thereby some involvement of Soviet prestige in the out-come of the political struggle in Laos, by reporting that this had been the occasion for a protest by the US Ambassador in Laos.

5. Mauritania: The establishment of the newest independent African state presented the Soviets with a novel problem, as was evident not only in Zorin's support for a UN resolution calling on France and Morocco to initiate talks on the subject -- and thus help relieve Moscow of the need for an immediate decision on Mauritarian UN membership, but also in Khrushchev's congratulatory message to Premier Daddah. On the one hand, fidelity to the national-liberation concept impelled Moscow toward recognition of the new state. Reluctance to offend Morocco, on the other hand, especially in view of the recent improvement in relations over Soviet agreement to furnish Rabat with jet military aircraft, also clearly played a role in Soviet calculations. The conflict of interests, and Soviet desire to straddle the issue for the time being, were reflected in the Khrushchev message. Daddah was addressed as the premier of the republic, a form which clearly implied recognition. However, in contrast to similar messages sent during recent months to other new African states, the greetings to Daddah failed to include a specific statement of Soviet "solemn" recognition or an offer to establish diplomatic relations. It also described Mauritanian independence day merely as the "first step" toward independence.

6. The Melekh Case: The Soviet public was given highly tendentious accounts of recent developments in the Melekh case, notably the court ruling on the point of diplomatic immunity, and the order for him to appear in Chicago. The ruling was said to be devoid of legal basis, press accounts continuing to insist on Melekh's status in virtue of his Soviet foreign service Diplomatic rank. The whole case was described as an attempt by

"certain US circles" to foster anti-Soviet hysteria in the American people. More specifically, Allen Dulles and J. Edgar Hoover were accused of trying to divert attention from alleged US intelligence failures in the USSR notably the U-2 and the RB-47. Press accounts also used the case to support the Soviet contention that New York is an unsuitable site for UN headquarters.

INTERNAL (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

7. Leadership: The Moscow-resident members of the Party Presidium were busy with the visit of Prince SIHANOUK of Cambodia who received top level attention from his arrival November 28 until his departure four days later and other representational duties.

Pravda on December 2 published a photo of participants of the Communist inter-party conference without naming them. However, all full members of the CPSU CC Presidium can be identified in the photograph with the exception of N.V.PODGORNYY who, as Ukrainian party first secretary, is a resident of Kiev and may have returned there. He last appeared publicly in Moscow on November 25 at the close of the Ukrainian Dekada.

F.R.KOZLOV was the only Presidium member at the station to see Albanian CP First Secretary HOXHA on his fairly early departure November 25. A. N. KOSYGIN, O.V.KUUSINEN and D.S.POLYANSKIY attended the November 29 Albanian Embassy reception. N.G. IGNATOV and Ye. A. FURTSEVA attended the Yugoslav national celebration the same evening. Two of the more interesting "public" inter-party gatherings of the week were: (1) With the East Germans on November 30 -- attended by N.S.KHRUSHCHEV, Kosygin and A.I.MIKOYAN. Also present was M.G.PERVUKHIN, identified, perhaps significantly, not in his role as a CC Presidium candidate member but only as Soviet Ambassador to the GDR. (2) With the Chinese on November 30 -- attended by Khrushchev, Kozlov and M.A. SUSLOV. As Khrushchev appeared at well over a dozen publicized occasions, it is hardly surprising that it was reported during the week that he looked fatigued.

8. Party Plenums Involving Leadership Changes in Stalingrad, Voronezh, and Vologda Oblasts: At a November 26 organizational plenum attended by Central Committee . RSFSR Bureau member and Chief of the CC Party Organs Section for the Union Republics V.M.CHURAEV, Stalingrad Obkom First Secretary I.K.ZHEGALIN was released to facilitate his appointment as Soviet Ambassador to Rumania -- a designation that was announced the same day (Pravda, November 27). A.M.SHKOL'NIKOV, until then first secretary of the Voronezh Oblast Party apparatus, was elected to replace Zhegalin.

Replacing Shkol'nikov necessitated a Voronezh Obkom plenum attended by one M.A.POLEKHIN, itentified in the press report as Deputy Chief of the CC Section on Party Organs for the RSFSR (Pravda, Nov. 27). The new Voronezh First Secretary, S.D.KHITROV, who has been Chairman of the Voronezh Ispolkom, presumably was already a member of the Obkom bureau. As a commentary on "party democracy," it is interesting to note that as these obkom plenums were held on the same day in cities about 300 miles apart, it is unlikely that the "party's choice", Shkol'nikov could have attended both meetings.

The Chief of the CC Section on Party Organs for the RSFSR, M. T. YEFREMOV, attended a November 29 Vologda Oblast Party Plenum that released First Secretary I.S.LATYNOV "in connection with transfer to other duties." (Pravda, Nov. 30). The Embassy has no record of V.S.MILOV who was elected in his stead.

9. Soviet-New Zealand Society Founded: "On the initiative of Soviet public leaders" the "USSR-New Zealand" society was founded at a meeting in Moscow on November 30 (Sovetskaya Rossiya, Dec. 1). K.I.IVANOV, one of the Prorectors of Moscow University was "elected" president of the new society the purpose of which is indicated by the meeting's direction of appeals to New Zealand public organizations, cultural leaders, scientists and artists etc for friendship and cooperation between New Zealand and the USSR (Izvestiya, Dec. 1).

10. Leningrad City Raion Elections: In the wake of a Leningrad Party Oblast plenum called to discuss the work of the Leningrad Sovnarkhoz, the party apparatus in the city of Leningrad sponsored a series of raion party conferences in the period November 19-20. (Leningradskaya Pravda, Nov.22). In each of the 10 raions a three-member secretariat was elected analogous to the Moscow party elections August 23-24 (See WEEKA No. 35, Aug. 26).

11. Communist Party Membership Dues for Members and Candidate Members: In keeping with introduction of the new currency on January 1, Partiy-naya Zhizn, No. 22, publishes information bringing the Party Rule No. XII up to date (No. XII concerns dues -- it was adopted at the XIX Party Congress in 1953). In effect, decimal points are merely moved one place to the left. As before, monthly party dues range from ½ to one percent for members and candidate members making less than 50 rubles per month to 3 percent for those whose income exceeds 200 rubles per month. Some additional material not contained in the 1953 Party statutes is added. While one-time bonuses, grants or state loan (lottery) winnings are not considered income for the purpose of calculating party dues, other regular increments of extra income such as overtime, income from a second job, royalties and lecturing fees, extra pay for such things as working in remote areas are so considered. When monthly income is indeterminate temporarily, as is the case for workers on collective farms, token monthly dues of 5 kopecks are collected until the correct sum can be determined at the end of the year. Housewives and Students without income will pay 2 kopeks (i.e. 2¢) per month.

MILITARY

(Negative)

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